

Attorney Docket No. 5649.1191
Application No.: 10/780,244
Filed: February 17, 2004
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REMARKS

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 16, 2005 ("the Action"). Claims 1-25 are pending in the application.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's statement that original Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 19-23 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 5, 6 and 8 have been amended to substantially incorporate the subject matter of their original base claim, Claim 1, with a variation on the covering step from "covering at least a portion of a sidewall" to "covering sidewalls". The variation to this language is for clarity, is non-art related and not a narrowing amendment. Claim 9 depends from allowable Claim 8. Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its base claim (original Claim 17). Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

Further, Applicant has amended: (a) Claim 3 to depend from allowable Claim 2 (Claim 4 also depends from allowable Claim 2); (b) Claims 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15 to depend from allowable Claim 5 (Claim 16 depends from Claim 15); and (c) Claims 10 and 11 to depend from allowable Claim 8.

Accordingly, Applicant also submits that dependent Claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 11-16 are also in condition for allowance, (making at least Claims 2-16 and 23 in condition for allowance) which action is respectfully requested.

II. The Cited Prior Art

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 12-18, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,177,334 to Chen et al. ("Chen"). To advance prosecution, Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice thereto, subject to pursuit in a future continuation application. As noted above, Claims 3, 4, 7, and 12-16 depend from allowable claims. Hence, the art rejection applies to Claims 17, 18, 24 and 25.

Independent Claim 17 has been amended to recite a method of forming a metal gate electrode rather than an integrated circuit device. Claim 17 now states:

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A method of forming a metal gate electrode comprising:
forming a gate pattern comprising a metal-gate pattern on a target substrate;
depositing a metal layer; and
oxidizing or nitrifying the deposited metal layer to form an oxidation barrier
layer covering sidewalls of the metal-gate pattern.

Applicant submits that Chen fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of amended Claim 17 and that Claim 17 is patentable over Chen. Claims 18-22 and 25 depend from Claim 17 and have been amended to recite features of the process of Claim 17, which Applicant submits are patentable for at least the subject matter of Claim 17. Applicant also submits that dependent Claims 18-22 and 24-25 recite independently patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Claims 17-22, 24 and 25 are patentable over the cited art reference and in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance or allowed, and Application is ready to be passed to issuance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned directly if such contact will expedite the allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted, -

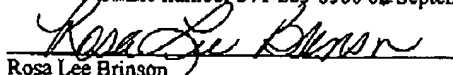


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via the central facsimile number 571-283-8300 on September 14, 2005.


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